



ECLO Operations Report

EMERGENCY CENTRE FOR LOCUST OPERATIONS



SITUATION UPDATE as of 4 April

A few immature swarms have formed in the past few days in Northeast **Sudan** near the Red Sea and the border of **Egypt**.

Several more swarms are expected to form on both sides of the border where hopper bands are currently present. Some of these swarms could cross the Red Sea to **Saudi Arabia** while others could move further inland in northern Sudan and southern Egypt.

In **Algeria**, egg-laying is in progress in El Oued province in the northeastern Sahara. Although laying may also occur elsewhere along the southern side of the Atlas Mountains from **Morocco to Tunisia**, it will be on a substantially smaller scale than in 2004.

Furthermore, Northwest Africa has **not** been invaded this spring because of failed winter rains and breeding in Mauritania.

In West Africa, a few immature swarms persist in **Guinea** and probably in southwest **Senegal**; a swarm reached the **Sierra Leone** border.

Training of Trainers

The regional Training of Trainers programme at the ICRISAT centre in Niamey, Niger, got off to a successful start at the official opening of the event on 14 March 2005. The training, which will last until 5 April, involves 20 participants from West African countries and one participant from Djibouti (see photo of opening above).

The session began with an introduction from Mme. Semedo, the FAO Representative in Niger, who said the training was to ensure locust outbreaks could be prevented as well as managed. Spain's ambassador to Niger, who was also present at the opening session, spoke about the importance of Spain's involvement in funding the training.

FAO staff participating in the session noted the participants' strong motivation, their support for the Training of Trainers format for passing on knowledge gained, and their anticipation of issues likely to arise when they conduct training sessions in their own countries before the summer 2005 locust control campaign.

The main themes of the regional training are the biology and dynamics of Desert Locust populations; survey and information management; Desert Locust control operations - pesticides and spraying equipment; eco-toxicity and mitigation of risks to human health and the environment; and managing control campaigns and information sharing.

Planning and funding

Technical experts from seven West African countries which recently benefited from a World Bank loan will join counterparts from four North African countries and representatives from FAO and the World Bank for a contingency planning workshop focused on the summer 2005 locust control campaign in the Sahel. The workshop will take place in Bamako, Mali, from 25 to 29 April 2005.

It will be followed by a donor meeting also jointly organized by FAO and the World Bank from 2 to 4 May in Bamako.

Funding update

As of 4 April 2005:

- FAO had received US\$66.7 million from donors to which the Organization had contributed a further US\$6.2 million of its own funds
- US\$7.8 million had been pledged by donors
- US\$2.7 million was being negotiated with donors
- The total budget allocation for locust control operations is US\$79.2 million.
- US\$42.8 million (58.7 percent of funds received) had been committed for locust control operations
- The balance of funds received was US\$30 million

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For more information on the desert locust situation, including operational activities, donor funding, country briefs and previous situation reports, go to <http://www.fao.org/news/global/locusts/locuhome.htm>